

After long delays, due in part to the refusal of the White House to cooperate, today Chairman Waxman released a GAO report assessing the costs to taxpayers of a 2005 White House initiative to support the President's efforts to privatize Social Security.

The initiative included campaign-style events featuring the President and a roster of top Administration officials as well as the creation of a "Social Security Information Center" in the Department of the Treasury. The analysis shows that the White House effort cost more than \$2.8 million, including more than \$1.6 million for staging the events, more than \$800,000 for Air Force One and Air Force Two travel, and more than \$200,000 for the creation of the Treasury Department's privatization war room and website. The \$2.8 million estimate is an underestimate of the true costs, as it does not include the cost of staff time, Secret Service protection, and other expenses.

#### **Documents and Links**

- [GAO Report](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)